

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (New): An antibacterial composition comprising:

- (a) at least one antibacterial salt compound,
- (b) at least one acid group-having polymerizable monomer,
- (c) at least one hydrophilic polymerizable monomer,
- (d) water, and
- (e) at least one basic compound selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal hydroxide, a strong basic acid salt not having an aromatic group, and an aliphatic amine.

Claim 8 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein the antibacterial salt compound (a) is an antibacterial pyridinium salt compound.

Claim 9 (New): The antibacterial composition claim 7, wherein the antibacterial salt compound (a) is a polymerizable group-having antibacterial salt compound.

Claim 10 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein the antibacterial salt compound (a) is a polymerizable group-having, antibacterial pyridinium salt compound.

Claim 11 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one alkali metal hydroxide.

Claim 12 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is lithium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.

Claim 13 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one strong basic acid salt not having an aromatic group.

Claim 14 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, lithium hydrogencarbonate, potassium hydrogencarbonate, sodium hydrogencarbonate, sodium formate, sodium hydrogen oxalate, sodium acetate, potassium acetate, sodium propionate, sodium borate, sodium dihydrogenphosphite, potassium dihydrogenphosphite, sodium dihydrogenphosphate, potassium dihydrogenphosphate, disodium hydrogenphosphate, or dipotassium hydrogenphosphate.

Claim 15 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one aliphatic amine.

Claim 16 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one primary aliphatic amine.

Claim 17 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one secondary aliphatic amine.

Claim 18 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one tertiary aliphatic amine.

Claim 19 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one polymerizable tertiary aliphatic amine.

Claim 20 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, wherein (e) is at least one tertiary aliphatic amine, which is not (2-dimethylamino)ethyl methacrylate.

Claim 21 (New): The antibacterial composition of claim 7, which further contains (f) a polymerization initiator.